



**Peter Dawson**  
Prison Reform Trust  
15 Northburgh Street  
London  
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**MoJ ref:** ADR96423

20 June 2022

Dear Peter,

**Re: Monitoring prison regime recovery as we exit the National Framework**

Thank you for your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

The government is committed to delivering prison regimes that protect the public, reduce re-offending, and support our resettlement priorities. Our recent Prison Strategy White Paper committed HMPPS to an ambitious project to transform regimes to achieve these objectives. The Future Regime Design project within the Transforming Delivery in Prisons Programme will deliver a new National Regime Model to deliver this.

Our prison regimes are recovering from COVID-19 restrictions. We have as of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May formally decommissioned the National Framework for Regimes and Services. The National Framework has served us well during the pandemic supporting the safe management of prisons but it is now time to return responsibility for designing, delivering, and assuring prison regimes to prison governors. This will not be straightforward; prisons are managing enduring outbreaks; others may occur and this may have some impact on the level of regime delivery. Additionally, there are areas where the pandemic has created some backlogs which will continue to require focus in addition to expanding prison regimes in the short term.

Governors have been asked to prioritise recovery and regime progression within their Business Plans for 2022/23. Prison Group Directors will monitor this delivery, assuring themselves that regimes delivered are consistent, decent, safe, and sufficient.

We have set clear expectations for Prison Governors and have issued a set of national regime principles supported by a series of workshops for Senior Management Teams to support regime recovery. These reiterate the importance and requirement to have effective Regime Management Plans (RMP) in place in each prison. RMPs designed and owned locally will ensure that we have safe and predictable regimes, ensuring core services and activities are delivered within the staffing resource available.

We will monitor regime delivery throughout the recovery period. As you rightly acknowledge, producing comprehensive and accurate time out of cell data is problematic however systems are in place to monitor each prisoner's access to purposeful activity. As part of the Future Regime Design project, we are collecting data to record the number of prisoners attending Purposeful Activity each week and this data now feeds a new National Regime Dashboard to enable close monitoring of those accessing activities in each prison.

This new data will allow Governors to monitor those engaging in activities exposing where an individual is not doing so. This regime data will be available centrally as well as locally, to allow oversight and scrutiny. Further, prisons will be encouraged to identify and support isolating individuals.

We recognise that isolation can negatively affect mental health and wellbeing, and that it is vital that positive engagement and appropriate support is put in place when an isolated individual has been identified. This includes staff having meaningful conversations with those isolating and encouraging interaction and engagement in activities and the regime, and where needed referring them to healthcare or external sources of support.

The Compartmentalisation and Isolation policy framework is being developed and will be published in the near future. This will cover all prisoners isolating under either Reverse Cohorting or Protective Isolation. Each prisoner must be provided at least a minimum level of regime entitlement/access during the isolation period in line with PSI 75/2011 Residential Services and the Prison Rules 1999/YOI Rules 2000. Whilst we are reducing COVID controls we are retaining protection for the most vulnerable, supported by the Personal Management Plans, to inform when access to a wider regime may be a risk and how we can mitigate these risks.

The tiered regime model previously shared with you through the FRD project, comprises Tier 1 (Curricular activity), Tier 2 (Extra-curricular activity) and a Foundation Tier (containing our statutory and policy responsibilities to deliver basic fundamental rights). The FRD project will develop a new set of National Standards which clearly articulate requirements for the foundation tier and will introduce a new qualitative measure that will ensure activities provided will deliver the right services to the right person at the right time and that personal regime plans meet individual needs. This will be assured through the operational line with further assurance anticipated through national audit processes.

In the longer-term the Regime Dashboard will be replaced by a new Purposeful Activity performance measure within the Prison Performance Tool (PPT); this will measure the totality of regime delivery in tiers 1 and 2. We will also develop qualitative measures to ensure the activity provided is impactful.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname "Atkins".

**VICTORIA ATKINS MP**